

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed sheets 3/6 and 4/6, labeled "Replacement Sheets," for the corresponding sheets presently in the case.

In reference to replacement sheet 3/6, Fig. 4, the original reference number "56" indicating the spring tensioner attached to the cable connector 35 is herewith amended to reference number "58."

In reference to replacement sheet 4/6, Fig. 6, the original reference number "40" generally indicating the cable drum has been amended to reference number "41."

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowable subject matter in claim 2. Per examiner's suggestion, claim 2 is herewith rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and also amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claims 3, 4, 5, and 7 are herewith amended to depend directly upon amended claim 2, and original claim 6 ultimately depends upon amended claim 2, which is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance is requested for present claims 2-7.

Amendments to Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "40" has been used to designate both a drum of a first embodiment shown in Fig. 3 and a drum of a second embodiment shown in Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 is herewith amended, wherein the original reference character "40" generally indicating the cable drum of the second embodiment has been replaced by reference character "41." The specification of the application describing Fig. 6, starting on page 17, line 22, has been amended accordingly to reflect the replacement reference character "41." Amended Fig. 6 is herewith presented in replacement sheet 4/6.

The drawings have also been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they did not include the reference character "58" as described on line 16 of page 9 of the application.

Fig. 4 is herewith amended, wherein the original reference character “56” indicating the spring tensioner attached to the cable connector 35 is replaced by reference character “58.”

Amended Fig. 4 is herewith presented in replacement sheet 3/6.

Amendments to Specification

Title of the Invention

Examiner contends that the title of the invention is not descriptive and suggests amending the title to include the hinge of the invention and remove reference to the non-elected method.

The title is herewith amended to recite “APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A HINGED SLIDING DOOR MECHANISM.”

Abstract of the Disclosure

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because “a cable” on line 13 (corresponding to examiner’s referenced line 9) on page 26 is unclear as to whether the applicants are referring to the cable set forth prior in the same paragraph or are attempting to set forth another cable. Also, it was noted that the phrase “portion position” on line 15 (corresponding to examiner’s referenced line 11) appears to be a typographical error.

The “cable” set forth on line 13 is a separate and distinct feature from the “cable attachment” set forth prior in line 10. The “cable” has an end that is secured to the “cable attachment” as described in lines 13 and 14 of the abstract on page 26 of the application.

The phrase “portion position” refers to the position of the first hinge portion. For clarification, the abstract has been amended to read the “second hinge portion is in a first orientation with respect to the position of the first hinge portion....” *Emphasis added*

Disclosure

The disclosure has been objected to because of informalities where: (1) on line 8 of page 1, the serial number of co-pending application should be included; (2) on line 26 of page 8, reference number “34” should be changed to “36”; (3) on lines 19-20 of page 13, “as 38 and 29 as hinge assembly 28” is grammatically awkward and confusing; (4) on line 17 of page 14, “is achievement” is grammatically awkward and confusing; and (5) on lines 28-32 of page 14 where it is unclear as to what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

In addressing item (1), the paragraph of the specification starting on page 1, line 7 of the application is herewith amended to include the serial number, 10/798733, of the co-pending application.

In addressing item (2), the paragraph of the specification starting on page 8, line 20 of the application is herewith amended to recite a “second hinge *portion 36* to the door as well as a point of securement for a front cable of the system.” *Emphasis added*

In addressing item (3), the paragraph of the specification starting on page 13, line 8 of the application is herewith amended to recite “the configuration and placement of guide member 74 keeps cable 39 taught in order to provide tension upon *both cables 38 and 39* as hinge assembly 28 travels in the non-curved portion or slightly curved portion of guide track 26.” *Emphasis added*

In addressing item (4), the paragraph of the specification starting on page 14, line 13 of the application is herewith amended to recite “direct force in the direction of arrow 76 is *achieved.*” *Emphasis added*

In addressing item (5), the paragraph of the specification starting on page 14, line 28 of the application is herewith amended to recite a “latch mechanism 80 (Figures 1, 8A and 8B) *just*

prior to moving into a *second* position for engaging a striker 81 or other equivalent member disposed within the frame of the slide door opening.” *Emphasis added*

Also, the paragraph of the specification starting on page 17, line 22 of the application is herewith amended to reflect the replacement reference character “41” to indicate the cable drum shown in Fig. 6 on replacement sheet 4/6.

Finally, the two paragraphs of the specification under the heading “Brief Description of the Drawings” starting on page 5, lines 17 and 19 of the application are herewith amended to correct the descriptions of the exemplary embodiment of the invention presented in Figs. 4 and 5 shown in drawing sheet 3/6.

Claims Elections/Restrictions

Pursuant to the response to your office filed on June 16, 2006, claims 17-27 have been withdrawn without prejudice.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-16 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention.

To place the application in a better position for allowance, claims 1, 8-16, and 28 are herewith cancelled. Claim 2 is herewith rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph as detailed on page 5 of the Office Action. Claims 3- 5, and 7 are herewith amended

to depend directly upon amended claim 2, and original claim 6 ultimately depends upon amended claim 2. Reconsideration and allowance is requested for present claims 2-7.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 3-7 have been rejected as being anticipated by Shimura. Claim 1 is herewith cancelled. Claims 3-5, and 7 are herewith amended to depend directly upon amended claim 2, which applicants believes is now allowable, and original claim 6 ultimately depends upon amended claim 2. Reconsideration and allowance is requested for present claims 3-7.

Claims 8, 11-16, and 28 have been rejected as being anticipated by Shimura. To place the application in a better position for allowance, claims 8, 11-16, and 28 are herewith cancelled.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimura and in view of Stone et al.

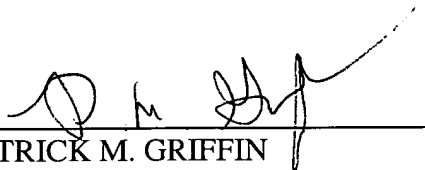
To place the application in a better position for allowance, claims 9 and 10 are herewith cancelled.

Conclusion

It is believed, in view of the amendments and remarks herein that all grounds of objection and rejection of claims 2-7 have been addressed and overcome, and that claims 2-7 are in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 8, 11-16, and 28 are herewith cancelled and claims 17-27 are withdrawn without prejudice. If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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